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Editorial Notes.

Messrs Hoe and Co of Madras have favored us with their Pocket Diary 1902. To those who do not know of this little Pocket Diary we would say that it is exceedingly useful. In addition to 368 pages blank for notes, it gives 144 pages of printed matter, full of useful information as to: anniversaries, eclipses, festivals, holidays, eras, postal rates and tables for ready reckoning, &c.—all this for the paltry sum of 6 as.

We have before us a number of excellent booklets, which we should be glad to notice at length, but want of space limits us to such brief notice as may serve to call the attention of our readers to them. They are issued by The Christian Literature Society in the Urdu language, and every one of them should have a wide circulation because they meet a present want.

First we notice THE TRUTH OF THE VEDAS. (Price 3 pie). This tract reveals the absurdity of the claim set up by the Arya Samāj for the Vedas, showing by many references to the Vedas themselves, that however ancient these Hymns may be, they are still limited by the bounds of time. The author also exposes the further claim of the Dayanandis that all modern scientific discovery was known to the ancients of Arya Vārtha.

Dr. W. F. Johnson has bestowed upon the country a great boon in his little book called *The Biblical Doctrine of*

the atonement (price 6 pie). This booklet should be studied, not only by every preacher of the gospel, but by every Christian able to read. It is as yet only available in Roman Urdu. It is to be hoped it will soon find a place in the Persian character. We believe this plain statement of scripture teaching is most suitable to be placed in the hands of non-Christians willing to earnestly consider this subject.

Another work by the same author, published in 1899, deserves special mention here. It is TASLIS KI HAQIQAT (Price 1 anna, Rom Urdu). This booklet sets forth the Scripture Doctrine of the Trinity as it is found in the Bible. In these days, when Unitarianism is joining hands with Islam in opposing this fundamental teaching of the Bible, it is well to have a book that makes it clear to all what the Doctrine is and the grounds upon which it rests.

ILHAMAT-I-MIRZA.

A Review.

This book is a reply to the claims of Mirza Gulām Ahmad of Qadian and pays its respect to his prophetic claims, showing how his so-called prophecies were unfulfilled. The author, in his introduction, says that he sincerely sought to know if there were any truth in the claims of the Qadian Messiah. In a conversation with Dr. Nūr ud Din, he was advised to drop controversy and to pray, and especially to perform *Ishtikārah*. This he did. On the 14th night, he tells us, he saw a vision of the Qadian Mirza, who was sitting on a carpet in a narrow

room. Sitting down by him, he asked him what the proofs of his Messiahship were. The Mirza said "you have omitted two steps: viz. The death of Christ and His reappearing". He replied, "you may regard these points as already settled". He then asked the Mirza to explain how it was that when prophecies of the Messiah were to be understood as not indicative of the real personage but of some one like him—i.e. one coming "in his spirit and power," the prophecy did not indicate the person really to come. When this question had been asked, and before the Mirza could answer, two other persons came in and were honorably relieved. But, when he again looked upon the Mirza, a great change had come over him: his face was haggard and his beard disheveled, and while he looked upon this changed face he awoke from his dream!

The interpretation which he put upon this dream was that the end of the Mirza was evil and therefore his doctrine false and the reading of the Mirza's books has confirmed this view. Maulvi Saad-ullah then undertook to expose the false prophecies of the Qadian Mirza. The most notorious of these predictions are:

(1). That the Deputy Abdullah Athim, a Christian magistrate of Amritsar, would die within 15 months from the 5th June 1893, unless he should return to Islam.

(2). That Pandit Lek Ram of Peshawar, a prominent member of the Arya Samāj, would die within six years from the date of this prophecy.

(3). A prophecy concerning Mirza Ahmad Beg of Hoshiarpur and his son-in-law of Pathi of the Lahore District

Ilhamat-i-Mirza by Janab Maulvie Abul-wafa Saad Ullah Sahib Amritsar, Price 2 annas.

that because Mirza Ahmad Beg had refused to give his daughter in marriage to the Qadian Mirza, it was prophesied that the son-in-law would die within two years and six months and that he (Mirza Ahmad of Qadian) would marry the widow, and that Mirza Ahmad Beg himself would die within three years, but that he would not die until after his widowed daughter had married the Qadian Mirza.

(4). A prophecy concerning Maulvie Muhammad Hussain, Batálawi, that within 13 months (from Dec 15th 1898 to Jan. 15th 1900), Muhammad Hussain would be the subject of 'zillat ká má', the general understanding of which is that he would die a dishonorable death.

I. The book under notice first discusses the prophecy against Abdulla Athim. Of this it was further said that on the fulfillment of the prophecy, 'the blind should see, the lame should walk and the deaf should hear.' The prophet of Qadian expressed his belief in this prophecy in these words: 'I now declare that, if the party in error does not fall into perdition through death within 15 months, I shall be prepared to undergo any punishment: I may be disgraced; or, I may be dishonored. I may be tied with a rope around my neck; or, I may be hanged: I am ready for all this. Moreover, I swear by Almighty God that He will do as I say: He will surely do it! He will surely do it! The Heavens and Earth may pass away, but His words shall never pass away.'

But Abdulla Athim did not die within the period by the prophecy.

The Mirza explains this in two ways:

(1) The prophecy did not relate to Abdulla alone, but to his party and one of that party, the Rev. Mr. Wright, did die within the period fixed! Unfortunately for the Mirza, the Maulvie points out that in a court of law the Mirza declared on oath that when he prophesied against the Christians in Amritsar, he had *Abdulla only* in mind!

The Mirza then fell back on the claim that *Abdulla really repented*, and so fulfilled the condition of escape and therefore did not die! He claimed that the repentance was evident from the fear he displayed in going from place to place to escape death! The Maulvie shows that according to this revising, we should believe the Qadiani to have become an Aryan, because he feared being killed by the Aryas after the death of Lek Rám and in his fear asked the Government to give him a body-guard!

The Maulvie here gives a full statement of the Qadiani's claim that through fear Mr. Abdulla Athim be-

came a secret believer, and rains upon him a torrent of sarcasm, exposing the absurdity of this claim.

II. The second prophecy concerned Pandit Lek Rám; viz, that between Feb 20, 1892 and the same date 1899, Lek Rám would die. If he should not die within the time specified, he (Mirza Gulám Ahmad) would be ready to endure any punishment. Lek Rám was to die in some singular manner. And he did die within the time specified. He was murdered by stabbing. It is claimed by the author of *Ilhámát-i-Mirza* that this death was not such as to indicate prophetic powers in the Mirza, but that the death was such as might have occurred to any one. The prophecy was only a guess.

III. The Prophet of Qadian declared that Mirza Ahmad Beg and his son-in-law would die within 3 years. The Maulvie shows that the Qadian used every influence in his power to secure the daughter of Ahmad Beg and that he plead with his son to use every effort to secure the fulfilment of his desires, so that his enemies, the Christians and orthodox Muslims, would not laugh at his unfulfilled prophecy! It was not fulfilled.

IV. The prediction against Muhammad Hussain, Batálawi, Mulla Muhammad Bakhsh, proprietor of a newspaper, Jáfir Zait Ali of Lahore and Maulvie Abdul Hussain of Thibet, that within 13 months, these should be smitten with "zallat ká má." It seems that Muhammad Hussain prosecuted him in court and secured an injunction against these prophecies of death to the enemies or opponents of the Qadian prophet.

This book comes out at a timely period, just when the Mirza is pressing his Messianic claims with renewed energy. His effort to establish his claim to be a seer has not been any more successful than was that of Muhammad. It is solely based upon his own assertion.

The author of *Ilhámát-i-Mirza* is to be congratulated upon his clever exposure of this shameless pretender to the office of a Messiah.

Current Thought & Incident.

The Constructive Power of Christianity.

Among the various aspects of Christianity which present themselves to our consideration, there is none more important than the thought of its value as a constructive force in the world. A careful review of all the facts will indeed lead us to the conclusion that the religion of Jesus Christ, is in truth,

the supreme constructive force known to humanity.

The forces which oppose themselves to Christianity, and to which it is necessarily and inevitably hostile, are essentially destructive. Wherever they are allowed free scope they, result in the ruin of character and the destruction of the soul. Their tendency is to tear down, not to build up, and we have but to point to the influence of intemperance and infidelity upon life, character and destiny to illustrate this fact.

On the other hand one of the most beneficent features of the Christian faith that we can cite is its splendid constructive power. The essential genius of Christianity is to build up, what is good, and we may safely say that whatever is worth having in our present civilization is the fruit of the constructive force of the Christian religion.

Christianity began with a life—the life of Jesus of Nazareth, the eternal Son of God. It was spread abroad from the outset by the impress made upon other lives by that matchless, perfect life. To-day Christianity still makes its first and most effective impress upon the individual human life, and its constructive power is most beautifully shown in the development of character. A Christian character is a character that is built upon the solid foundation of the Rock, Christ Jesus. There is no building on earth that can compare in attractiveness with the beauty of a character built upon the faith of the most holy Son of God.

A life that is out of Christ is a life that is barren and empty. It is only as the soul responds to the divine touch of the Son of Man that life becomes replete with meaning to oneself and fruitful in blessing unto others. In other words, it is only the constructive power of Christianity upbuilding the life of the individual through the redeeming grace of Christ that makes a human soul of any value to itself or to any one else.

The constructive power of Christianity is revealed in the progress of Christian nations toward higher and better ideals. Heathen nations have never shown any advance toward the attainment of righteousness save as they have been touched by the spirit of Christianity.

The constructive power of Christianity is witnessed in the history of the Christian Church. Faults and imperfections there have been and are still in this institution. Yet it stands as a magnificent illustration of the expanding and developing power of the faith implanted in the hearts of men by the Son of God.

In the wonderful extension of the work of missionary, benevolent, philanthropic, and charitable societies whose rapid organization and beneficent activity have characterized the past century, is seen one more evidence of the constructive power of Christianity. These societies, founded to facilitate the spread of the gospel and to minister to the needs of humanity, in the spirit of Him who commended even the giving of a cup of cold water in His name, are an irrefragable proof of the uplifting power of our Christian faith.

American Messenger.

TO THOSE WHO WOULD LIVE LONG.

FIX deeply in mind the grand truth that life power rules the body.

Few starve for food, but many for air. Breathe deeply a hundred times daily. Wear no tight clothing. Above all, ventilate your sleeping-room.

Beware of gluttony. If the appetite is dull, eat fruit only, or eat nothing. Use no fiery condiments, but live chiefly on natural grains, vegetables, and fruits. Never ask your stomach to chew your food—employ your teeth. Adorn your table not only with viands, but with flowers and smiles and kindly words.

Shun intoxicants and drugs as you do pestilence.

Thick blood causes colds and countless other diseases. Keep the lungs active by deep breathing, the skin by baths and friction, the kidneys by free draught of warm water, the bowels by correct eating; and the blood will be pure.

Make cleanliness your motto, and watch against filth in both house and grounds.

Deformity is not awkwardness only, but danger. A high chest will give freedom to breathing and digestion, and help to cure many diseases.

Spend part of each day in muscular work, part in study, and in good deeds to men and in the worship of God.

You are a triune being—mental, moral, physical. A sound mind and pure morals depend much upon bodily health. Therefore make health a part of your study and of your religion.

SELECTED.

REST.

"The word of my Lord the King shall now be for rest." Here is the whole secret of rest from the very beginning to the very end. The word of our King is all we have and all we need for deep, utter heart rest, which no surface waves of this troublesome world can disturb. What gave 'rest from thy sorrow and from thy fear' at the very first, when we wanted salvation and peace? It was not some vague, pleasing impression, some undefinable hush that came to us, but some word of our King which we saw

to be worthy of acceptance: we believed it, and by it Jesus gave us rest. We lean upon the Word of our King for everlasting life, why not for daily life also? Let us try simply to rest upon the words of our King Jesus!

F. R. HAVERGAL.

The Czar and his General.

Discussing the visit of the Czar to France the Week End remarks that the Czar has a pretty wit, but his sarcasms are seldom sharp enough to hurt those against whom they are directed. On one notable occasion, however, he reduced a Russian general to a frightful state of consternation. It happened soon after his accession and before his coronation, that he was cycling in the park of Gatschina, wearing, as was his wont, the uniform of a colonel. Something having gone wrong with his chain, he got off to adjust it, and just at that moment a pompous general from a distant province passed. Not receiving the salute due to him, the officer stepped up to the supposed colonel and peremptorily requested an explanation of the seeming discourtesy. "I am so sorry," said he sweetly; "I have not yet had the honor of becoming acquainted with you, owing to the shortness of my reign, or I should, of course, have done so." Utter collapse of the general!

God often strikes away our props to bring us down upon his mighty arms. What strength and peace it gives us to feel them underneath us! Far as we may sink we cannot go farther down than those stretched arms. There we stop; there we rest; and the everlasting arms not only sustain us, but carry us along, as on eagle's wings.

Doctor Cuyler.

He is the strong preacher or strong Christian who bows his will, mind and heart to God. The divine Word is to him the end of all controversy. He preaches and lives as it directs. It is not for him to set up his judgment against the Scriptures. The most potent argument with him is a "Thus saith the Lord."

An Underground Fire.

In Mercer County, Pennsylvania, the centre of the bituminous coal district, is a subterranean fire that has been burning continually for thirty-five years, and which will probably not be extinguished until the entire vein of coal is exhausted.

It is thought probable that already millions of tons of coal have been consumed by the unquenchable fire. Some three hundred acres of land in the vicinity of the burning mine have been rendered so parched and dry that vegetation cannot live on them.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

We have been requested by the Secretary of the Indian Christian Association Exhibition Committee to publish the following notice:—

It is proposed to open the Exhibition on Saturday, the 22nd February, 1902 and to keep it open on Monday and Tuesday, the 24th and 25th February (vide Programme below.)

It is requested that all Exhibits should reach Lucknow not later than 10th February, 1902, after which date no articles will be received.

The General Secretary of the Indian Christian Association proposes to give medals to successful candidates, in the last University Examination, at the same time when the prizes and medals for the Exhibition are awarded. He also suggests that all Indian Christian graduates should appear on this occasion in their gowns and hoods.

The Commissioner of Lucknow has very kindly consented to open the Exhibition, and it is confidently hoped that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor N.-W.P. and Oudh and Lady Digges La-touche will give away the medals prizes, &c.

A Reception Committee has been appointed to make all arrangements for the entertainment of all visitors from outstations. It is requested that application for accommodation, &c, may be sent in good time to Rev. George Peters, Pastor, Wesleyan Mission Lucknow, or to Mr. E. Phillips, No 5 Forsyth Road, Lucknow. For board and lodging a charge of 0-8 per day for each person will be made. Children at half price.

The O & R. Railway have kindly granted a concession in the Railway fares to all visitors coming from the principal stations on their line, viz:—they will be allowed to travel in the 2nd, Intermediate, or 3rd class, on payment of a single fare for the double journey on production of a certificate from the Secretary to the effect that they are bonafide visitors to the Exhibition and Convention. Printed certificates required by the Railway will be forwarded to every station in order that any one desiring to avail himself of the concession may be able to secure it without any difficulty. Final reply has not been received from the E. I. and North Western Railways, but if these Railways also grant similar concession, it will be announced in good time.

Programme.

Saturday 2nd, Opening Day: Monday 24th, Prize Day: Tuesday 25th, open to public.

Telegrams.

London, Jan. 25.

Lord Kitchener has authorised the ex-Boer General Vilonel to form a corps of 1,500 Burghers for the purpose of terminating the war. General Vilonel has written to Mr. Steyn warning him that civil war is about to begin owing to his obstinacy.

The casualty list received to-night includes seven killed and twenty-five wounded at Trenafontein on the 21st instant, mostly Yeomanry.

London, Jan. 26.

The Boers placed cartridges under a strain on the Pietersburg railway, but they exploded harmlessly.

Colonel Rawlinson captured forty prisoners south of Frankfort on the 22nd instant.

The Boer General Renny in force attacked Colonel Wilson on Saturday near Frankfort, but was repulsed, having ten killed, but he rescued seventeen out of twenty prisoners previously captured. Our casualties were eight.

General Ben Viljoen has been captured in the neighbourhood of Lydenberg by a party of Intelligence agents who were searching a farm.

Lord Kitchener telegraphs that this important capture will doubtless have a considerable effect on the Boers north of the line.

A special cablegram to the *Englishman* says:

De Wet, whose reappearance so far has complicated matter in South Africa, is, it is believed, beginning to find his difficulties too many for him. The area in which he is able to move is rapidly contracting, and the military authorities are sanguine of bringing him to battle or forcing him to surrender within a measurable distance of time.

The execution of Scheepers and the present trial of Kritzinger, with what our critics fear will be a similar result, have given occasion for much Pro-Boer outpourings in the Continental Press. It is noticeable, however, that since the Buelow-Chamberlain incident these papers have been remarkably discreet in references to this country.

Calcutta, Jan. 27.

A special cablegram to the *Indian Daily News* says:

The statement recently made by Lord Cranborne that England refused to cooperate with other powers to bring pressure to bear on the United States during the Cuban war is angrily resented on the Continent, where it is spoken of as a mean device to secure the continued neutrality of the United States in the present war in South Africa. In America, however, the statement has been warmly accepted as another sign of the fraternal tie which binds the two greatest nations of the Anglo-Saxon race.

London, Jan. 25.

At the instance of Yuanshikai, the Dowager Empress and her counsellors are seriously considering the employment of foreign advisers of distinguished ability to re-organise the Government.

London, Jan. 26.

Yuanshikai, who practically controls the Army and Navy, proposes to engage Japanese instructors for the Chinese Army, and British for the Navy.

Upwards of 100 million taels buried in the women's quarters of the palace at Peking before the flight of the Court have been unearthed intact.

London, Jan. 26.

The Spanish gunboat *Cendor*, while pursuing fishing trawlers off Vigo under forced steam, blew up, and only four were saved out of 22 on board.

London, Jan. 27.

Prior to the luncheon with Queen Victoria's Regiment at Berlin the Emperor William appointed the Prince of Wales the Colonel of the crack regiment, the 8th Cuirassiers.

The Emperor William, in toasting the Prince of Wales, dwelt upon the testimony of the greatness of the British Empire afforded by the Prince's unprecedented tour of the British Colonies, and asked the officers to drink his health as the representative of the British Army and the British Empire.

London, Jan. 27.

Colonel Plumer on the 25th instant, after a long and difficult march, captured 36 Boers to the north-east of Standerton.

London, Jan. 27.

The French Government has interdicted a conference of Young Turks summoned to Paris by the sons of Mahmud Pasha.

London, Jan. 28.

General Bruce Hamilton made a night march with picked horses on the 25th instant and surprised a Boer laager between Ermelo and Bathel. The British charged and the enemy fled and were pursued for many miles. Two were killed and four wounded, and 82 captured. The British had three wounded.

Lord Hopetoun, speaking at a banquet in Melbourne, explained that the Federal contingent was not offered earlier owing to the belief that the enemy were at the last gasp.

The Lords have adopted an official resolution of Lord Wemyss declaring that rigorous prosecution of the war and surrender of Boers in the field are essential to lasting peace, any approving the action of the Government, after an amendment by Lord Welby for omitting approval of the Government's action was rejected by 60 against 16.

A despatch from Lord Kitchener dated the 27th instant, says that the number of Boers killed, wounded, taken prisoner or surrendered during the past week is 426.

London, Jan. 28.

America pays one million sterling for the Danish West Indies.

London, Jan. 28.

The census shows the population of London to be 9,536,541.

NEWS AND NOTES.

Considerable scarcity is apprehended in Bombay during the current year, and some 40 lakhs is estimated as necessary for scarcity purposes.

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